

Appl. No. 10/997,378
Response dated July 11, 2006
Reply to Office Action of April 20, 2006

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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method for preparing a molded foam article comprising:
 - a. forming a polyurethane-forming mixture by mixing
 - i. an internal mold release agent consisting of a fatty acid condensation product;
 - ii. an IMR-enhancer compound consisting of a petroleum oil;
 - iii. an isocyanate;
 - iv. a polyol;
 - v. a catalyst; and
 - vi. a blowing agent;
 - b. filling a mold with the polyurethane-forming mixture; forming a molded foam article; and
 - c. removing the molded foam article from the mold.
2. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the fatty acid condensation product, the IMR enhancer compound, and the isocyanate are first mixed to yield an enhanced IMR "A" side composition.
3. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the fatty acid condensation product, the IMR enhancer compound, and the polyol are first mixed to yield an enhanced IMR "B" side composition.
4. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein a portion of the fatty acid condensation product, a portion of the IMR-enhancer compound, and the isocyanate are first mixed to yield an enhanced IMR "A" side composition and wherein the residual portion of the fatty acid condensation product, the residual portion of the IMR-enhancer compound, and the polyol are mixed to yield an enhanced "B" side composition.
5. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the fatty acid condensation product

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is a condensation product of a fatty acid selected from the group consisting of ricinoleic acid, oleic acid, alaidic acid, stearic acid, palmitic acid, linoleic acid, octanoic acid, coconut oil acids, tallow fatty acid, paraffin oxidation acids, and tall oil fatty acid and the IMR-enhancer compound is mineral oil,

6. (Original) A molded foam article prepared in accordance with the method of Claim 1.

7. (Previously Presented) A method for preparing an enhanced IMR composition comprising:

a. reacting a fatty acid condensation product with an isocyanate in the presence of an IMR-enhancer compound,

wherein the fatty acid condensation product has at least one active hydrogen containing group.

8. (Previously Presented) An enhanced IMR composition prepared in accordance with the method of Claim 7.

9. (Previously Presented.) The method of Claim 1, wherein the polyurethane-forming mixture is formed by preparing an enhanced IMR composition by reacting the fatty acid condensation product with the isocyanate in the presence of the IMR-enhancer compound, wherein the fatty acid condensation product has at least one active hydrogen containing group.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 5, wherein the condensation product is a product of the fatty acid and an alcohol, amine or a mixture thereof

11. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 10, wherein the condensation product is a product of the fatty acid and an alcohol and/or amino alcohol.

12. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 11, wherein the alcohol is

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selected from butanol, hexanol, octanol, dodecanol, oleyl alcohol, natural or synthetic steroid alcohol, ethylene glycol, propylene glycol, butanediol, hexanediol, glycerol, polyglycerol, trimethylolpropane, pentaerythritol, sorbitol, hexitol, a sugar and an addition product of an alkylene oxide.

13. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 10, wherein the condensation product is a product of the fatty acid and an amino alcohol or an amine.

14. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 13, wherein the amino alcohol or amine is selected from ammonia, a monoalkylamine, a dialkylamine or an amine alkoxylation product.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein the amount of IMR-enhancer compound in the polyurethane-forming mixture is an amount sufficient to reduce the force required to remove the molded foam article from the mold.

17. (Currently amended) A method for preparing a molded foam article comprising:

- a. forming a polyurethane-forming mixture by mixing
 - i. a fatty acid condensation product;
 - ii. an IMR-enhancer compound consisting of a petroleum oil;
 - iii. an isocyanate;
 - iv. a polyol;
 - v. a catalyst, and
 - vi. a blowing agent;
- b. filling a mold with the polyurethane-forming mixture;
- c. forming a molded foam article; and
- d. removing the molded foam article from the mold

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wherein the fatty acid condensation product has at least one active hydrogen containing group ~~the amount of IMR enhancer compound in the polyurethane-forming mixture is between from about 10 to about 100 weight percent based on the weight of the fatty acid condensation product.~~

18. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein the amount of fatty acid condensation product in the polyurethane-forming mixture is an amount sufficient to allow removal of the molded foam article from the mold without destroying the article.

19. (Previously Presented) A molded foam article prepared in accordance with the method of Claim 17.

20. (Currently Amended) A method for preparing a molded foam article comprising:

- a. forming a polyurethane-forming mixture by mixing
 - i. an internal mold release agent comprising a fatty acid condensation product of a fatty acid and an alcohol and/or amino alcohol, the fatty acid condensation product having at least one active hydrogen containing group;
 - ii. an IMR-enhancer compound;
 - iii. an isocyanate;
 - iv. a polyol;
 - v. a catalyst; and
 - vi. a blowing agent;
- b. filling a mold with the polyurethane-forming mixture;
- c. forming a molded foam article; and
- d. removing the molded foam article from the mold.

21. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 20, wherein the fatty acid condensation product, the IMR enhancer compound, and the isocyanate are first

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mixed to yield an enhanced IMR "A" side composition.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 20, wherein the fatty acid condensation product, the IMR enhancer compound, and the polyol are first mixed to yield an enhanced IMR "B" side composition.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 20, wherein the fatty acid condensation product is a condensation product of a fatty acid selected from the group consisting of ricinoleic acid, oleic acid, alaidic acid, stearic acid, palmitic acid, linoleic acid, octanoic acid, coconut oil acids, tallow fatty acid, paraffin oxidation acids, and tall oil fatty acid and the IMR-enhancer compound is mineral oil.

24. (Previously Presented) A molded foam article prepared in accordance with the method of Claim 20.

25. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 20, wherein the polyurethane-forming mixture is formed by preparing an enhanced IMR composition by reacting the fatty acid condensation product with the isocyanate in the presence of the IMR-enhancer compound, wherein the fatty acid condensation product has at least one active hydrogen containing group.

26. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 20, wherein the amount of IMR-enhancer compound in the polyurethane-forming mixture is an amount sufficient to reduce the force required to remove the molded foam article from the mold.